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Message Text

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13
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 CU-05 DRC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /100 W
---------- 015701
R 220403Z AUG 74
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1965
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9384

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH, TW
SUBJECT: TAIWAN IN PRC MEDIA

SUMMARY. PEKING HAS FURTHER PLAYED UP THE TAIWAN THEME BY MAKING IT A CENTER FEATURE IN NCNA'S REPORT OF A MAJOR CHINESE LEADERSHIP TURNOUT. PEKING'S TREATMENT OF THE THEME IS STILL SUBTLE, STRAW-IN-THE-WIND, AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE A MAJOR EFFORT COMING. BUT IF THE INTERNALLY STRAINED LEADERSHIP WERE TO RALLY AROUND IT, THEN THE TAIWAN ISSUE COULD TAKE ON ADDED FORCE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PROMINENCE BEING GIVEN TO TAIWAN IN PEKING'S PROPAGANDA WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN NCNA'S AUGUST 20 REPORT OF THE DEPARTURE OF CHINA'S DELEGATION TO THE ASIAN GAMES. A LARGE NUMBER OF REGIME LEADERS, INCLUDING ALL THE TOP LEFTIST FIGURES, TURNED OUT TO HONOR THE DELEGATION, AND NCNA SHARPLY FOCUSED ON THEIR "CORDIAL CONVERSATIONS" WITH THE TAIWANESE SPORTSMEN IN THE GROUP.

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2. MEANWHILE, PRC MEDIA CONTINUES TO POINT UP THE TAIWAN THEME

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IN THE DOCUMENTARY FILM, "A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE" (HONG KONG 9085; HONG KONG 8838 ITEM 16; HONG KONG 8796; HONG KONG 8732). HONG KONG'S TA KUNG PAO ON AUGUST 21 REPRINTED AN AUGUST 19 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ON MAINLAND ATHLETES' IMPRESSION OF THE FILM, WHICH DWELLS ON THEIR AFFECTION FOR THEIR BROTHERS AND COMPATRIOTS ON TAIWAN. (THE PRC-OWNED HONG KONG NEWSPAPER ADDED ITS OWN SUB-HEADING WHICH GAVE ADDITIONAL PROMINENCE TO TAIWAN.) THE WRITERS DESCRIBED THE MOVIE'S STIRRING SONGS AS EMBODYING THE THEMES OF THE INEVITABLE UNITY OF THE MOTHERLAND AND TAIWAN, AND MUTUAL LOVE OF THE TWO PEOPLES, WHO ARE BROTHERS OF THE SAME FLESH AND BLOOD.

3. THE FILM AND ITS SONGS HAVE REPORTEDLY ALSO IMPRESSED SOME IN TAIWAN. MICHAEL YING-MAO KAU, A BROWN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, TOLD A CONGENOFF THAT HE WAS STRUCK BY THE CONSIDERABLE TREATMENT DEVOTED TO TAIWAN IN THIS YEAR'S FILM WHICH STARKLY CONTRASTS TO THAT OF LAST YEAR. MOREOVER THIS YEAR'S FILM UNDERSCORED THE FACT THAT "CONTACT" ALREADY EXISTS WITHIN THE SPORTS REALM. KAU, WHO WAS RECENTLY IN TAIWAN FOR A CONFERENCE, SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THE MOVIE BEING DISCUSSED ON THE ISLAND AFTER SOME TAIWANESE REPORTED SEEING IT IN HONG KONG.

4. WE EARLIER REPORTED THE UNUSUAL PLAY GIVEN BY THE PRC-OWNED CHINESE PRESS HERE TO THE VIEWS OF SENATOR JACKSON AND OTHERS WHO ADVOCATE REVERSING U.S. RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI AND PEKING (HONG KONG 8753). AS MOST RECENTLY REPORTED, HOWEVER, CADRE HERE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND THIS AND TO DISCUSS SUCH A SCHEME (HONG KONG 9217).

5. ON AUGUST 22, BOTH MAJOR PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPERS IN HONG KONG, TA KUNG PAO AND WEN WEI PAO, FRONT-PAGED NCNA INTERVIEWS WITH TAIWAN BORN ATHLETES ON THE PRC TEAM IN THE ASIAN GAMES. THE SPORTSMEN DISCUSSED THEIR WARM FRIENDSHIP WITH THEIR FELLOW MAINLAND ATHLETES AND JOY AT BEING SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE PRC. ADDITIONALLY, THE WEEKLY TA KUNG PAO ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITION OF AUGUST 22 FEATURED A FULL PAGE PICTORIAL SPREAD ON ACTIVITIES OF TAIWAN COMPATRIOTS IN PEKING.

5. COMMENT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PEKING IS IN LARGE MEASURE SIMPLY REACTING TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR REITERATING ITS WELL-KNOWN
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POSITION ON REUNIFICATION. BUT IN DOING SO PEKING, DELIBERATELY OR OTHERWISE, IS CONVEYING A SOMEWHAT HEIGHTENED SENSE OF PRIORITY FOR THE TAIWAN ISSUE. IT IS BY NO MEANS AN ALL-OUT EFFORT AND IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY POINT TO A BUILDUP OF GREAT MOMENTUM OVER THE ISSUE. BUT IN VIEW OF THE STRAIN THAT THE INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUGGLE HAS PLACED ON THE REGIME, A SHOW OF UNITY OVER TAIWAN COULD GIVE THE ISSUE ADDED FORCE.
CROSS

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